

WABASH HERITAGE CORRIDOR COMMISSION
Meeting minutes –March 6, 2002
Indiana Government Center South, Conference Rooms 1 & 2
Indianapolis, IN

Members present

Allen County-Ron James
Cass County-Janet Fawley
DNR-Steve Morris
Fountain County-Ron Howard
Huntington County-Mike Mettler
Miami County-Ken Einselen
Posey County-Tom Straw
Sullivan County-John Gettinger
Tippecanoe-Norman (Lucky) Neiburger
Vermillion County-Mike Craig
Vigo County-Keith Ruble (alternate)
Warren County-Louise Jewell
DOC Tourism-Marianna Weinzapfel
INDOT-John Leckie
IDEM-Susan McCloud
DNR DHPA – Jon Smith

Proxies

Adams County-Norman Neiburger
Wells County-Ron James
Gibson County-Marianna Weinzapfel

Members not present

Knox County
Parke County
Wabash County
Jay County
Carroll County

Visitors Present

Carolyn Howard-Fountain County
Dan McCain-Delphi Historic Trails & Canal
Rory Robinson-National Park Service
Don Jewell-Warren County
Doug DeHoff-Vigo County
Mercedes Brugh-Little Turtle Waterways
Mike Hoover-Indiana Department of Health
Susan Benner-WRHCC Exec. Director to be

DNR Staff Present

Dale Brier-DNR Outdoor Recreation
Cynthia Webb-DNR Outdoor Recreation
Bob Bronson-DNR Outdoor Recreation
Britt Long-DNR Outdoor Recreation

CALL TO ORDER

President Lucky Neiburger called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM. At this time Lucky introduced Susan Benner. Susan has been selected for the Executive Director position. Lucky stated that there had been office space offered in Covington and Lafayette. The office area in Lafayette has been chosen for the office for the Executive Director.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF January 9, 2002 MEETING MINUTES

Mike Mettler pointed out that he had been listed as an alternate and he is not. He is the Huntington Representative. Ron James made the motion to approve the corrected minutes. Ken Einselen seconded the motion and motion passed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The contract for Executive Director is in negotiating stages. Lucky reported meeting with the new Director of DNR, John Goss, and that Director Goss approved of going forward with a contract for the Executive Director. Lucky commented that he thinks John Goss and the WRHCC will get along very well together.

Mike Craig questioned the commission as to who is going to oversee the executive director. Steve Morris reported language from the executive director performance plan is as follows: "Guidance and direction provided by the President of the Commission, primarily; the Executive Board, secondarily; and the Commission as a whole ultimately."

John Gettinger offered to talk to Senator Waterman and see if Senator Waterman could help speed up the process of getting the contract for the Executive Director position approved. Keith Ruble commented that he was surprised we could still go ahead with the Executive Director contract given the latest budget cuts.

COMMISSION FINANCIAL REPORT

Steve Morris reported a balance of \$43.63 in the commission's operating fund from 1997. Because this is a non-reverting account, we will keep the account open with a minimum balance.

From the 2001 appropriation of \$75,000, the balance for the commission operating expenses is \$7,093.92. The balance for the Executive Director's expenses is \$59,750.00. At this time, John Gettinger made a motion to cover Susan's travel expenses from the commission operating budget. Tom Straw seconded the motion. Motion passed.

BANKS OF WABASH REPORT

Dan McCain reported that the annual meeting for Banks of the Wabash would be hosted by Cinergy on June 19th at Cuyahoga.

OLD BUSINESS

Commission officer elections

Janet Fawley nominated Norman Neiburger as president and Ron James as vice-president of the commission. Ron Howard seconded the motion. Tom Straw made a motion to close the nominations, and Keith Ruble seconded the motion. Motion passed. Tom Straw made a motion to make appointments by acclamation, and John Gettinger seconded the motion. Officers accepted by acclamation.

Staff person work plan committee

Lucky, Ron James and Steve Morris reported that the Executive Director performance plan is finalized. Tom Straw had questions about level of auto insurance required for the staff person. A discussion ensued. A copy of the performance plan will be sent out with the meeting minutes.

OLD BUSINESS (continued)

Corridor management plan committee

Rory Robinson explained that the committee is going to update and improve the 1993 Corridor Management Plan. This will involve three rounds of public meetings, which will be held in the Northern region, Central region, and the Southern region. Coordinating the meetings will be Mike Mettler in the Northern region, Lucky Neiburger in the Central region, and John Gettinger in the Southern region. Rory will serve as facilitator for the meetings and assist with the drafting of the document. A briefing sheet should be completed by April.

The first round of meetings will be April 30, May 1-2, the second round August 20-22, and the third round November 12-14.

A five minute power point presentation will be made at the start of the first round of meetings. Janet Fawley suggested the presentation be split-up amongst commission members attending each meeting.

Participants for the meetings should be residents of communities along the Wabash corridor, county/city park officials, elected officials at various levels of government, representatives from various organizations, institutions, and universities. Steve Morris needs a mailing list of important addresses by March 22, 2002.

Newsletter

Dale Brier has a draft of the commission newsletter. Lucky will submit a president's report about the Executive Director. Also included will be the dates for the planning meetings.

Other business

Steve Morris made available a list of the projects funded by the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund. The list is also available on the commission website.

Speaker

Mike Hoover with the Department of Health was the guest speaker. He is the supervisor of the Environmental Health Section of Sanitary Engineering. He spoke to the commission about campgrounds. New campground rules have been developed and will receive a public hearing on March 22nd.

NEW BUSINESS

Suggestions for future speakers

It was suggested that we ask Professor Swihart at Purdue University to speak about a study with which he is involved.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

Other items

Steve Morris reported about Wabash River gauging stations being closed due to the budget cuts. Dale Brier reported that many of these are being picked up by other agencies.

Ron James made a motion allowing Steve to ship brochures and order supplies as budgeted using the money from the commission's operating expenses. Tom Straw seconded the motion. Motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marianna Weinzapfel passed out brochures for the Hoosier Hospitality Conference. It is to be presented by The Indianapolis Star at The Westin Hotel, March 26-27, 2002.

Mike Mettler reminded everyone of the upcoming Indiana Park & Recreation Association (IPRA) Trails and Greenways meeting being held April 10th at Clarksville. The meeting will focus on trails in riparian zones.

Next commission meeting -May 1st, 1 PM, in Tippecanoe County at the Depot in Riehle Plaza in downtown Lafayette.

Adjournment

John Gettinger moved for adjournment.